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00862.022447.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

AKITOSHI YAMADA, et al.

Application No.: 09/993,641

Filed: November 27, 2001

For: IMAGE PROCESSING
APPARATUS AND IMAGE
PROCESSING METHOD

Examiner: S. Rogers

Group Art Unit: 2626

August 31, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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SEP 03 2004

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of each document so listed is enclosed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,739,917
U.S. Patent No. 5,565,994
U.S. Patent No. 6,057,933
Europe 0 833 499
Europe 0 654 940

These documents were cited during prosecution of a European patent application corresponding to the above U.S. application. A copy of the European Search Report dated July 27, 2004 is enclosed.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of the Form PTO-1449.

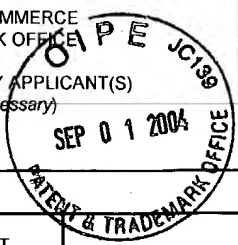
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. Kmett", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Edward A. Kmett
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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.022447.		APPLICATION NO. 09/993,641	
				APPLICANT AKITOSHI YAMADA, et al.			
				FILING DATE November 27, 2001		GROUP 2626	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,739,917	04/14/98	Shu et al.	358	298	
		5,565,994	10/15/96	Eschbach	358	298	
		6,057,933	05/02/00	Hudson et al.	358	1.9	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	EP	0 833 499	04/01/98	Europe			
	EP	0 654 940	05/24/95	Europe			
							<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> RECEIVED SEP 03 2004 </div>
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1